

REMARKS

This Amendment is made in response to the Office Action dated February 25, 2008. Claims 23-44 were currently pending. By this Amendment, claim 23 has been amended to include the recitations of claims 25 and 28. Claim 31 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 32. Claim 37 has been amended to include the recitations of claims 39 and 40. Claims 25, 28, 32, 39 and 40 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 26 has been amended to depend from claim 23 in view of the cancellation of claim 25. Claims 33 and 34 have been amended to depend from claim 31 in view of the cancellation of claim 32. Claim 35 has been amended to change the word "shaft" to "tubing." Favorable reconsideration of the pending claims is requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 41-44 are allowed and that claims 28, 32-34 and 40 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As mentioned above, the recitations of these claims have been added to independent claims 23, 31 and 37 respectively. Accordingly, claims 23, 31 and 37, and their dependent claims, are in a condition for allowance.

Although Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of certain claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Applicant has amended these claims to expedite allowance of this case. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these previously pending claims, and similar claims, in a continuation application to be filed at a later date.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that all of the present claims of the application are patentable and in a condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney can be reached at (310) 824-5555 to facilitate prosecution of this application, if necessary.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,

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